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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tadashi NAKAYAMA et al.

Application No.: 08/943,705

Filed: October 3, 1997

For: AN INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AN ELECTRONIC CAMERA

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AUG 07 2001

Technology Center 2600

Group Art Unit: 2612

Examiner: A. Moe

Docket No.: JAO 32445

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement forwarded by the Office Action dated June 5, 2001, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-14. This election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-30 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining Group. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 clearly states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in

order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all the claims in this Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RZE/dmw

Date: August 6, 2001

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